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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

TOPIC 31st Heavy Artillery Brigade in Vyskov

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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REFERENCES

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REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Prior to 4 September 1953, the 31 st Mtz Hv Arty Brig was stationed at Vyskov (P 50/N 71) and was subordinate directly to the 2d Military District.

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The brigade was quartered in low brick buildings in the northern section of the cantonment on the northeastern perimeter of Dedice (P 50/N 61).

2. The brigade was organized into the brigade headquarters, three battalions, one headquarters battery and one NCO school. Each battalion consisted of three batteries. The brigade also included one survey battalion of 200 or 300 men which had the designation mericka geostrelecka jednotka (artillery survey unit) (MDJ). The 1st, 2d and 3d Batteries of the 1st Bn were organized into one headquarters platoon, one signal platoon and one gun platoon. Each of the gun platoons of the 2d and 3d Btries had four, and the gun platoon of the 1st Btry had two model 37-S (S for Soviet) 152-mm guns which were towed by Tatra-111 trucks.

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The batteries of the 1st Bn numbered 50 to 60 Czechs and Slovaks. The organization of the 2d Bn and, presumably, that of the 3d Bn, corresponded to that of the 1st Bn. All battalions had 152-mm guns. The NCO school of the brigade was organized into one headquarters platoon, one signal platoon and one gun platoon and totalled about 125 men. The soldiers of the headquarters platoon were equipped with model 98-N rifles, old light machine guns, old Soviet pistols and four bazookas with electric fuzes.

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the bazookas which he could not specify were a modernized model of the Panzerfaust of the former German Army. The signal platoon of the NCO school was equipped with field telephones and small radio sets. No radio trucks were observed. The guns for the school were detached by the 1st Bn. ¹

3. Officers of the brigade headquarters included Colonel Frantisek Vitek, commander; Lieutenant Colonel Oldrich Bedrnik, deputy brigade commander and, simultaneously, commander of the 1st Bn; Major Kratochvil (fnu), chief of staff; Senior Lieutenant Sural(fnu), political officer; Major Cerny (fnu), supply officer; Lieutenant Liska (fnu), observation officer; Lieutenant Safranek (fnu), motor transport officer; Lieutenant Koudela (fnu), survey officer; Senior Lieutenant David (fnu), signal officer; Lieutenant Korenek (fnu), chemical warfare officer; Senior Lieutenant Svoboda (fnu), chief of supply; Junior Lieutenant Ruzicka (fnu), athletics officer; and Captain Vorac (fnu), brigade medical officer. Senior Lieutenant Miroslav Nechutny was in charge of the NCO school. Major Kopecky (fnu) was the commander of the survey battalion. Officers of the 1st Bn headquarters included Captain Adamek (fnu), deputy

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commander, and Lieutenant Hurta (fnu), chief of staff. The 1st, 2d and 3d Btries were commanded by Senior Lieutenant Bubenik (fnu), Senior Lieutenant Prochazka (fnu) and Senior Lieutenant Brezina (fnu). All platoon leaders within the batteries were officers. The 2d Bn was commanded by Major Gadas (fnu), and the 3d Bn by Major Jurcak (fnu), whose chief of staff was Captain Kasa (fnu).² No Soviet officers were observed with the brigade.

4. [] an artillery survey unit whose superior headquarters was undetermined was quartered in the Zizka Barracks on the east side of the Prostejov (P 50/N 73) road on the northeastern perimeter of Vyskov. From 10 to 12 low buildings south of the quartering area of the 31st Brig in the Dedice cantonment were occupied by a tank school (tankove uciliste). Numerous armored vehicles were sheltered in the terrain 2 to 2.5 km north of the cantonment. []

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[] this installation as the tankodrom. Only individual armored vehicles were observed in the area of the cantonment. one 152-mm SP gun and some Cromwell and Panther tanks.³

5. According to a decree by the War Department published in August 1953 the rank of senior captain in the Czechoslovakian Armed Forces was abolished. General Malec (fnu) was mentioned during instruction as Chief of Artillery Troops in Czechoslovakia.⁴

1. [] Comment. It is believed that this GHQ artillery brigade was activated after the deactivation of the artillery division. The T/O of the brigade does not correspond to that of a comparable Soviet army artillery brigade, which, in addition to an AT regiment, includes an artillery regiment with only twenty-four 152-mm howitzers.

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2. [] Comment. The officers are reported for the first time.

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3. [] Comment. [] one tank regiment of the 13th Mecz Div and the military academy for tank troops are carried in Vyskov. It is believed that most of the tanks available are Soviet models.

4. [] Comment. The abolition of the rank of senior captain is confirmed. Army Corps General Malec (fnu) is known as Artillery Inspector or Artillery Commander-in-Chief with the MNO.

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